

1004155-01002
A⁴ consid.
16 serve as seats for the receptacles 13. The latter are suspended by means of suspension members 19, 19' that are seated in the indentations 18 of the holder rack 16. A series of receptacles 13 are seated in this manner one after the other in adjacent indentations. The holder device 10 is open at the bottom. However, if the holder device 10 is set down on a plane surface, e.g., on the floor 60 of the transport channel (see Fig. 1), the bottom of the holder device 10 is closed off so that no air, and thus no humidity, is exchanged with the ambient atmosphere.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Amended) An apparatus for gravimetrically calibrating a multi-
2 channel pipette, comprising:
3 a balance with a load receiver configured to support one of a plurality
4 of receptacles;
5 a holder device configured to hold the plurality of receptacles, said
6 receptacles being seated in the holder device at defined equal intervals from
7 each other and arranged so that the receptacles can be filled with a test liquid
8 from pipette tips of the multi-channel pipette; and
9 a transport device for transporting the holder device to the load
10 receiver, wherein the transport device has means for placing on and
11 subsequently removing from the load receiver one after another of said
12 receptacles.

1 2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the
2 transport device and the holder device has means for precisely positioning the
3 receptacles on the load receiver.

1 3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport
2 device is encased in a housing, the balance is installed in the housing, and the
3 load receiver is arranged on a surface of the balance and passes through an
4 opening of the housing into the holder device, when the holder device is in a
5 working position on the transport device.

1 4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the load receiver
2 has two wings with V-shaped depressions formed at ends of the wings, from
3 which said one of the plurality of receptacles can be suspended.

1 5. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the defined equal
2 intervals correspond to a tip interval at which the pipette tips of the multi-
3 channel pipette are spaced from each other.

1 6. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of
2 receptacles in the holder device has at least as many receptacles as the multi-
3 channel pipette has pipette tips.

1 7. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the receptacles
2 have a geometrically shaped cross-section of one a circle, oval and rectangle.

1 8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
2 comprises:

3 a holder rack with indentations in which the receptacles are
4 seated by means of rigid suspension members that are attached to upper ends
5 of the receptacles.

6 9. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the rigid
7 suspension members comprise:

8 sockets that partially surround a circumference of each
9 receptacle, and rod members with an inner cone and an outer cone.

10 10. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein at least one of
11 the rod members has a double cone which includes two cones pointing in
12 opposite directions, located between the inner cone and the outer cone, and
13 forming a ring groove at a transition from the double cone to the outer cone,
14 said ring groove serving to positively seat one of the rigid suspension
15 members in one of the indentations of the holder rack.

1 11. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
2 is separable from the transport device.

1 12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
2 has a cover as a barrier against contamination and evaporation.

1 13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
2 has at least one tub near openings of the receptacles, wherein the tub can be
3 filled with the test liquid to create a saturated atmosphere in the holder device
4 to reduce evaporation of the test liquid from the receptacles.

1004455-011002
2
3 14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
 has means whereby an underside of the holder device is sealed when the
 holder device is set on a flat surface.

1 15. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport
2 device is operable to move the holder device horizontally back and forth while
3 at the same time raising and lowering the holder device.

1 16. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transport
2 device is configured to move the holder device back and forth with
3 simultaneous raising and lowering with a single drive source.

1 18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport
2 device has a transport carriage and a transport channel in which the transport
3 carriage moves, and wherein the transport carriage has a seat for the holder
4 device.

1 19. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport

2 device comprises:

3 at least one transport rack guiding movements of the holder device.

1 20. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the transport
2 device comprises:

3 a position sensor operable to determine an actual position of one
4 of the holder device and a transport carriage of the transport device in
5 relation to the transport device.

21. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, comprising:

2 a drive mechanism, a housing, a drive wheel with at least two
3 bolts, and a drive rack with arcuate cutouts, wherein the drive mechanism and
4 the drive wheel are attached to the housing, the drive rack is attached to one of
5 a transport carriage of the transport device and the holder device, and the bolts
6 are configured to engage the arcuate cutouts of the drive rack.

1 22. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the drive rack,
2 the transport rack of the transport device, and a holder rack of the holder
3 device are shaped with a common periodic pitch.

1 23. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
2 is guided by the transport device along a linear travel path.

1 24. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device

1 is guided by the transport device along a circular travel path.

1 25. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each receptacle
2 has a bottom surface marked with a receptacle code, and the transport device
3 has a sensor head, and wherein signal-conducting means are provided for
4 transmitting a code signal from the receptacle code to the sensor head.

26. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the holder device
2 is marked with a holder device code and the transport device comprises:

3 a sensor device that is operable to read the holder device code and
4 is arranged at an even level with the holder device code.

1 27. (Amended) A transport device operable to transport a plurality
2 of receptacles containing a pourable substance to a measuring device, wherein
3 the transport device comprises:

4 a holder device in which receptacles are seated so that they center
5 themselves and can be individually handled, the holder device being
6 configured for transport in the transport device and comprising means for
7 damping a movement of the receptacles when they are displaced from an
8 equilibrium position by an extraneous influence; and

9 means for delivering to and subsequently removing from the
10 measuring device one after another of the receptacles in a manner, where
11 removal of one receptacle and the delivery of a next following receptacle

1 occur simultaneously.

1 28. (Amended) The transport device of claim 27, wherein the
2 receptacles are seated in the holder device at equally spaced positions with a
3 defined distance from each other.

1 29. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the receptacles
2 have a geometrically shaped cross-section of one of a circle, oval and
3 rectangle.

1 30. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device comprises:

3 a holder rack with indentations in which the receptacles are seated
4 by means of rigid suspension members that are attached to upper ends of the
5 receptacles.

1 31. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the rigid
2 suspension members comprise:

3 sockets that partially surround a circumference of each receptacle ,
4 and rod members with an inner cone and an outer cone.

1 32. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein at least one of
2 the rod members further has a double cone which includes two cones pointing
3 in opposite directions, located between the inner cone and the outer cone, and

4 forming a ring groove at a transition from the double cone to the outer cone,
5 said ring groove serving to positively seat one of the rigid suspension
6 members in one of the indentations of the holder rack.

1 33. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device is separable from the transport device.

1 34. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device has a cover as a barrier against contamination and evaporation.

1 35. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device has at least one tub near openings of the receptacles, wherein the tub
3 can be filled with a test liquid to create a saturated atmosphere in the holder
4 device to reduce evaporation of the test liquid from the receptacles.

1 36. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device has means whereby an underside of the holder device is sealed when
3 the holder device is set on a flat surface.

1 37. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the transport
2 device is operable to move the holder device horizontally back and forth while
3 at the same time raising and lowering the holder device.

1 38. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the transport
2 device is configured to move the holder device back and forth with

1 simultaneous raising and lowering with a single drive source.

1 40. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the transport
2 devicehas a transport carriage and a transport channel in which the transport
3 carriage moves, and wherein the transport carriage has a seat for the holder
4 device.

1 41. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the transport
2 device comprises:

3 at least one transport rack guiding movements of the holder
4 device.

1 42. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the transport
2 device comprises:

3 a position sensor operable to determine an actual position of one
4 of the holder device and a transport carriage of the transport device in relation
5 to the transport device.

1 43. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 38, comprising:

2 a drive mechanism, a housing, a drive wheel with at least two
3 bolts, and a drive rack with arcuate cutouts, wherein the drive mechanism and
4 the drive wheel are attached to the housing, the drive rack is attached to one of
5 a transport carriage of the transport device and the holder device, and the bolts

1 are configured to engage the arcuate cutouts of the drive rack.

1 44. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the drive rack,
2 the transport rack of the transport device, and a holder rack of the holder
3 device are shaped with a common periodic pitch.

1 45. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device is guided by the transport device along a linear travel path.

1 46. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device is guided by the transport device along a circular travel path.

1 47. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each receptacle
2 has a bottom surface marked with a receptacle code, and the transport device
3 has a sensor head, and wherein signal-conducting means are provided for
4 transmitting a code signal from the receptacle code to the sensor head.

1 48. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the holder
2 device is marked with a holder device code and the transport device
3 comprises:

4 a sensor device that is operable to read the holder device code and is
5 arranged at an even level with the holder device code.
